CONCLUSIONS

After this recital, a long commentary would be useless. We see how great has been the variety of Hilbert's researches, the importance of the problems he has attacked. We shall signalize the elegance and the simplicity of the methods, the clearness of the exposition, the solicitude for absolute rigor. In seeking to be perfectly rigorous one risks at times being long, and this is not to buy too dear a correctness without which mathematics would be nothing. But Hilbert has known how to avoid the tedium of such diffuseness for his readers in never letting them lose from view the guiding thread which has served him to orient himself. We always easily see by what chain of ideas he has been led to set himself a problem and find its solution.

We realize that, more analyst than geometer in the ordinary sense of the word, he nevertheless has seen at one view the totality of his work before distinguishing details and he knows how to give his reader the advantage of this all-embracing vision.

Hilbert has had a tremendous influence upon the recent progress of the mathematical sciences, not alone by his personal work, but by his teaching, by the counsel he has given to his scholars and which has enabled them to contribute in their turn to this development of our knowledge by using the methods created by their master.

There is no need, so it seems, to say more in justification of the decision of the commission which has unanimously awarded to Hilbert the Bolyai prize for the period 1905–1909. M. Poincaré

THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL

In the early part of 1909 Mr. William Converse, of Chicago, proposed to the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society to found a gold medal to be awarded annually by the Section. Mr. Converse stated that the object of his proposition was to stimulate interest in the work of the Section and of the society at large and to encourage the highest ideals of the science in their members. The Section gladly welcomed and accepted the offer made. It was proposed to name the medal after the most eminent chemist America has given to the science, and the consent of Mrs. Van Name, the surviving sister of Willard Gibbs, having been secured, the medal founded by Mr. Converse was named the Willard Gibbs Medal. After various plans had been suggested and discussed, the Section decided that the medal should be awarded annually, by invitation, rather than by competition and the following rules were adopted for the award.

RULES FOR THE AWARD OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL, FOUNDED BY WILLIAM A. CONVERSE

1. A gold medal shall be awarded annually by the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society at its May meeting, which meeting shall be open to the public.

The medal is to be known as the Willard Gibbs Medal founded by William A. Converse.

The award shall be made according to the rules here set forth and made a part of the by-laws of the Chicago Section.

2. The award shall be made by a two-thirds vote of a jury of twelve, to anybody who because of his eminent work in and original contributions to pure or applied chemistry, is deemed worthy of special recognition by the jury.

3. A condition of the award shall be that the recipient of the medal shall deliver an address upon a chemical subject of his own selection and satisfactory to the jury at the May meeting of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society. He shall be notified of the award three months in advance of this meeting by the chairman of the Chicago Section.

4. The jury of the award, to be known as the Jury of the Willard Gibbs Medal, shall consist of twelve members, six of them to be members of the Chicago Section. The chairman of the Chicago Section shall be chairman of the jury, but shall have no vote.

5. Four members of the jury shall be elected each year to serve three years, in the same manner

and at the same time as the officers of the Chicago Section.

At the first election of the jurors of the Willard Gibbs Medal, to be held in 1911, four jurors shall be elected to serve a term of one year, four to serve a term of two years and four to serve a term of three years. Of each four elected, two shall be from the Chicago Section.

6. At the call of the chairman of the Chicago Section the jury shall begin its deliberation on January 2 of each year.

Each member of the jury shall be entitled to place in nomination the names of two candidates. The voting shall then be on these candidates.

The four names receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot shall be retained, the others rejected.

If of the four names retained, none receives a two-thirds vote on the second ballot, the two receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped. If on further balloting the committee finds it impossible to make a selection by a two-thirds vote, it will report to the section, which will proceed to elect the recipient of the medal; but if any candidate receives a two-thirds vote of the committee, his election shall be final and shall be so reported to the section.

7. It is desired that the paper or address, if suitable, be published in one of the publications of the American Chemical Society.

8. The executive committee of the Chicago Section shall have the power to decide any question not specifically covered by these rules.

9. The Chicago Section shall have the power to change or amend these rules in the same manner as the by-laws of the section.

For the first year of the foundation, 1911, by special amendment of the rules of the Section a special jury of award was elected, consisting of the following members: S. A. Mather, chairman of the section and president of the Thorkildsen-Mather Co.; W. Brady, chief chemist of the Illinois Steel Co.; D. K. French, secretary of the section and chemist of the Dearborn Drug and Chemical Co.; W. Hoskins, of Mariner and Hoskins; Professor John H. Long, of the Northwestern University Medical School; A. Lowenstein, chief chemist of Nelson Morris & Co.; Professor H. McCormick, of Armour Institute; Professor H. N. McCoy, of the University of Chicago; W. D. Richardson, chief chemist of Swift & Co.; Professor Alexander Smith, of the University of Chicago, and president of the American Chemical Society, and Professor Julius Stieglitz, of the University of Chicago. By a unanimous vote the jury decided to award the first medal to Professor Svante Arrhenius for his fundamental work on the theory of electrolytic dissociation.

The medal was presented to Dr. Arrhenius on the evening of May 12, after a banquet which was attended by over 200 members and guests of the section. The formal program of the evening included the following addresses: "International Bonds of Science," by Harry Pratt Judson, president of the University of Chicago; "Chemistry and Commerce," by Mr. Wheeler, president of the Association of Commerce of Chicago; "The Willard Gibbs Medal," by S. A. Mather, chairman of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society; "The Presentation of the Willard Gibbs Medal to Dr. Arrhenius," by Alexander Smith, president of the American Chemical Society, and "The Willard Gibbs Address," by the medallist, Svante Arrhenius, on "The Theory of Electrolytic Dissociation." The last address gave, in outline, the history of the discovery of the theory of electrolytic dissociation; it formed, on the one hand, an intensely interesting record of the birth of a great idea and theory, of its early difficulties and its final triumph; and, on the other hand, it presented a picture of the struggles, progress and development of the genial discoverer of the theory.

The address will be published under the auspices of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. SAMUEL H. SCUDDER, of Cambridge, eminent for his contributions to entomology, especially lepidoptera and fossil insects, died on May 17, aged seventy-four years.

DURING his recent visit to Washington at the time of the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, Sir John Murray presented a fund of six thousand dollars to